

18 September 2008

Chem-Bio News

1. U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY AWARDS NEW YORK CITY \$29 MILLION UNDER THE SECURING THE CITIES INITIATIVE:

"The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced approximately \$29 million in grants to prevent a radiological/nuclear attack in the New York City (NYC) metropolitan area by enhancing regional capabilities to detect and interdict illicit radioactive materials."

2. U.S. IMPROVES WMD INTEL, CIA CHIEF SAYS: *"U.S. intelligence analysts have improved their methods following the 2003 U.S. invasion of Iraq, lending credence to their assessments of Iranian and Syrian nuclear ambitions, CIA Director Michael Hayden said yesterday."*

3. NIST LEADERSHIP SHAKEUP: *"Patrick D. Gallagher has been named Turner's replacement. Gallagher, who was director of NIST's Center for Neutron Research, chaired a committee that issued an initial report that was critical of safety management at the Boulder NIST lab after a June 9 plutonium spill there."*

4. PENTAGON RESEARCHER CONJURES WARCRAFT TERROR PLOT: *"Now, a Pentagon researcher has laid out how such a terror plot might unfold. The planning ground is World of Warcraft. The main target of this possibly nuclear strike: the White House."*

5. WHY DO UK MILITARY PERSONNEL REFUSE THE ANTHRAX VACCINATION?:

"Based on data collected from 5,302 members of the UK Armed Forces, the authors sought to understand the reasons that some UK military personnel refused the anthrax vaccine."

6. SENATOR DOUBTS ANTHRAX SUSPECT ACTED ALONE: *"Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., one of the targets of the mailed anthrax attacks that killed five people in 2001, said Wednesday he is convinced that the FBI's sole suspect - dead microbiologist Bruce Ivins - did not act alone."*

7. EPA ADDS SIX AND PROPOSES 11 SITES TO SUPERFUND'S NATIONAL PRIORITIES LIST:

"Fort Detrick Area B Ground Water (Frederick, Md.)" has been proposed to the National Priorities List.

CB Daily Report

Chem-Bio News

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY AWARDS NEW YORK CITY \$29 MILLION UNDER THE SECURING THE CITIES INITIATIVE

US Department of Homeland Security News Release
September 16, 2008

"The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced approximately \$29 million in grants to prevent a radiological/nuclear attack in the New York City (NYC) metropolitan area

by enhancing regional capabilities to detect and interdict illicit radioactive materials."

"The award includes the participation of key Securing the Cities (STC) stakeholders, including: New York Police Department (NYPD), the State of New York, the State of New Jersey, the State of Connecticut, Nassau, Suffolk, Westchester, Rockland Counties, City of New York Fire Department, New York City Department of Environmental Protection, New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, the Port Authority of New York/New Jersey, and the Metropolitan Transportation Authority."

The full article can be found at: http://www.dhs.gov/xnews/releases/pr_1221602938361.shtm

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U.S. IMPROVES WMD INTEL, CIA CHIEF SAYS

Global Security Newswire

September 18, 2008

"U.S. intelligence analysts have improved their methods following the 2003 U.S. invasion of Iraq, lending credence to their assessments of Iranian and Syrian nuclear ambitions, CIA Director Michael Hayden said yesterday."

"The very fact that someone is interested in nuclear, chemical or biological technology is not enough to prove they are interested in weapons," Hayden said in a speech to the Los Angeles World Affairs Council. "A WMD program fundamentally centers on political intent."

The full article can be found at: http://www.nti.org/d_newswire/issues/2008_9_17.html

The speech can be found at: <https://www.cia.gov/news-information/speeches-testimony/directors-remarks-at-lawac.html>

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NIST LEADERSHIP SHAKEUP

By Zak Brown

DailyCamera

September 16, 2008

"The National Institute of Standards and Technology confirmed Tuesday that its highest administrator and the director of its Boulder lab have both left the agency in the last month.

James M. Turner, former deputy director of NIST, announced Tuesday he's leaving for a deputy assistant secretary position at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Tom O'Brian, former director of the Boulder labs, resigned Aug. 15 and left the agency Aug. 29.

Patrick D. Gallagher has been named Turner's replacement. Gallagher, who was director of NIST's Center for Neutron Research, chaired a committee that issued an initial report that was critical of safety management at the Boulder NIST lab after a June 9 plutonium spill there.

Partially as a result of that report and other subsequent investigations, the agency announced safety operating changes Tuesday."

The full article can be found at: <http://m.dailycamera.com/news/2008/sep/16/deputy-director-leaves-nist/>

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PENTAGON RESEARCHER CONJURES WARCRAFT TERROR PLOT

By Noah Schachtman

Wired.com

September 15, 2008

"The American military and intelligence communities are increasingly worried that would-be bin Ladens might gather in a virtual world, to plan a real-life attack. But the spies haven't given many details, about how it might be done. Now, a Pentagon researcher has laid out how such a terror plot might unfold. The planning ground is World of Warcraft. The main target of this possibly nuclear strike: the White House.

There's been no public proof to date of terrorists hatching plots in virtual worlds. But online spaces like World of Warcraft are making some spooks, generals and Congressmen extremely nervous. They imagine terrorists rehearsing attacks in these worlds, just like the U.S. military trains with commercial shoot-em-up games. They worry that the massively multiplayer games make it incredibly easy to gather plotters from around the world. But, mostly, virtual worlds are nerve-wracking to spies because they're so hard to monitor. The accounts are pseudonymous. The access is global. The jargon is thick. And most of the spy agencies' employees aren't exactly level-70 shamans."

The full article can be found at: <http://blog.wired.com/defense/2008/09/world-of-warcra.html>

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WHY DO UK MILITARY PERSONNEL REFUSE THE ANTHRAX VACCINATION?

By Dominic Murphy, Theresa Marteau, Matthew Hotopf, Roberto J. Rona, Simon Wessely
Biosecurity and Bioterrorism: Biodefense Strategy, Practice, and Science

September 1, 2008

"Based on data collected from 5,302 members of the UK Armed Forces, the authors sought

to understand the reasons that some UK military personnel refused the anthrax vaccine. They found that refusal rates were correlated with perception of threat and that it is important to provide people with relevant information to aid in decision making.

The purpose of this study was to understand the reasons why some UK military personnel refused the anthrax vaccination. Data were collected from 5,302 members of the UK Armed Forces who had been deployed to Iraq since 2003 and had been offered the anthrax vaccination. As part of a larger questionnaire, information was collected on acceptance or refusal of the vaccination. Twenty-eight percent of participants refused the anthrax vaccination; of these 51% indicated that they refused vaccination because of concern that it was being offered voluntarily. Reasons differed between those deployed during the war-fighting phase in Iraq, who were concerned about being supplied with insufficient or unclear information (75% vs. 66%), and those involved on subsequent deployments, who felt that there was no longer a risk that biological weapons would be used against them (61% vs. 43%). Thus, refusal rates were related to perception of the threat. In addition, our results indicated the importance of providing individuals with relevant information to aid them in making decisions to receive the anthrax vaccination or not. The findings provide evidence that for some people, the policy to increase confidence in the anthrax vaccination program may have led to a decrease in levels of trust."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.liebertonline.com/doi/abs/10.1089/bsp.2008.0008>

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SENATOR DOUBTS ANTHRAX SUSPECT ACTED ALONE

By Jennifer A. Dlouhy

SFGate

September 18, 2008

"Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., one of the targets of the mailed anthrax attacks that killed five people in 2001, said Wednesday he is convinced that the FBI's sole suspect - dead microbiologist Bruce Ivins - did not act alone.

"If he is the one who sent the letter, I do not believe in any way, shape or manner that he is the only person involved in this attack on Congress and the American people," said Leahy, chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee. "I believe there are others involved, either as accessories before or accessories after the fact. I believe there are others who can be charged with murder."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2008/09/18/MN6O12VS1C.DTL>

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EPA ADDS SIX AND PROPOSES 11 SITES TO SUPERFUND`S NATIONAL PRIORITIES LIST

Environmental Expert.com

September 3, 2008

"The following 11 sites have been proposed to the National Priorities List.....Fort Detrick Area B Ground Water (Frederick, Md.)"

The full article can be found at: <http://management.environmental-expert.com/resultEachPressRelease.aspx?cid=7698&codi=36745&idproducttype=8&level=0>

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